

THOUSANDS EXPECTED TO ENTER SYSTEM THAT HAS ALREADY GROWN BEYOND CAPACITY

A recent report recommends the construction of new jail facilities to house an ever-growing number of inmates in Maricopa County. With over 7,100 inmates crowded into hard bed facilities capable of handling only 5,300, the already overflowing jail adult population could increase by nearly 3,000 over the next 15 years, the report says.

Juvenile facilities are also overcrowded. Population exceeds capacity by 20% regularly. Crime prevention and community based solutions are being aggressively pursued, but the report states that another 500 beds for juvenile detention are necessary over the next 15 years.

“The results of this report clearly confirms that our jail population, which already exceeds the capacity of our existing facilities, will grow by several thousand in the foreseeable future,” said Thomas K. Irvine, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning. “If Maricopa County is going to ensure public safety, new facilities must be built, for both adults and juveniles.”

Since February 1997, Maricopa County has been studying this issue, under the direction of the **Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning**, assisted by a team of national experts to help assess the problems and identify responsible solutions. They offered final recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on November 18, 1997.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors recently asked the state legislature for the authority to hold an election that will allow the public to decide on jail expansion.

Please read about this effort and let us know how you think we should address this public safety need.

Additional Information and Feedback

- Executive Summary
- The Maricopa County Jail Crisis
- A Public Safety Crisis
- What We Face
- Adult Detention and the Maricopa County Sheriff
- Juvenile Detention and the Juvenile Court Center
- Stretching Existing Resources
- Highlights of Jail Planning Committee Recommendations
- County Financing Options
- What People are Saying
- Questions and Answers
- Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning
- Minute Entries
- Where to Find Reports
- Send us your FEEDBACK